

a metallic oxide coated on the active material component, the metallic oxide comprising a metal selected from the group consisting of Mg, Al, Co, K, Na, Ca, Ti and Sr.

2. (Three Times Amended) The positive active material of claim 1 wherein the metallic oxide has a metal selected from the group consisting of Mg, Ti and Al.

5. (Three Times Amended) A method of preparing a positive active material for rechargeable lithium batteries, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining a powder from a source material, the source material being selected from the group consisting of  $\text{Li}_x\text{MnO}_2$ ,  $\text{Li}_x\text{MnF}_2$ ,  $\text{Li}_x\text{MnS}_2$ ,  $\text{Li}_x\text{Mn}_{1-y}\text{M}_y\text{O}_2$ ,  $\text{Li}_x\text{Mn}_{1-y}\text{M}_y\text{O}_{2-z}\text{F}_z$ ,  $\text{Li}_x\text{Mn}_{1-y}\text{M}_y\text{O}_{2-z}\text{S}_z$ ,  $\text{Li}_x\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_4$ ,  $\text{Li}_x\text{Mn}_2\text{F}_4$ ,  $\text{Li}_x\text{Mn}_2\text{S}_4$ ,  $\text{Li}_x\text{Mn}_{2-y}\text{M}_y\text{O}_4$ ,  $\text{Li}_x\text{Mn}_{2-y}\text{M}_y\text{O}_{4-z}\text{F}_z$ , and  $\text{Li}_x\text{Mn}_{2-y}\text{M}_y\text{O}_{4-z}\text{S}_z$ , where  $0 < x < 1.5$ ,  $0.05 \leq y \leq 0.3$ ,  $z \leq 1.0$  and M is selected from the group consisting of Al, Co, Cr, Mg, Fe and La; and

coating the powder with a metallic alkoxide solution to make an alkoxide-coated powder, the metallic alkoxide solution being selected from the group consisting of Mg-Alkoxide, Al-alkoxide, Co-alkoxide, K-alkoxide, Na-alkoxide, Ca-alkoxide, Ti-alkoxide and Sr-alkoxide; and

heat-treating the alkoxide-coated powder such that the alkoxide-coated powder is changed into an oxide-coated powder.

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1-8 were examined. Claims 1, 2 and 5 are amended. Claims 1-8 remain pending.

### **35 U.S.C. §132 - Specification**

The Patent Office objects to the amendment filed September 24, 2001 under 35 U.S.C. §132 because it introduces new matter into the disclosure. The Patent Office states that the added material which is not supported by the original disclosure is "non-metallic alkoxide," "formed by the reaction of an alcohol with a metal or non-metal," and "non-metallic oxide." Applicants have amended the specification to remove reference to "non-metallic." Applicants respectfully request that the Patent Office withdraw the objection.

### **35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph - Claims 1-8**

The Patent Office rejects claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not sufficiently described in the specification. More specifically, the Patent Office states that the specification does not support a non-metallic oxide comprising Si